

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2016 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Room 111, Town Hall

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Members present: David Pollak (Chairman), Helen Charlupski, Barbara Scotto, and Rebecca Stone.

Other School Committee Members present: Susan Wolf Dittkoff.

School Staff present: Joe Connelly, Mary Ellen Dunn, Ben Lummis, and Robin Coyne.

Other Staff present: Economic Development Director Kara Brewton and Planning Director Alison Steinfeld. Others Present: Neil Wishinsky (Chairman of the Board of Selectmen), Carla Benka (Advisory Committee), Mark Gray, and Meredith Rooney (Boston University).

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

The Subcommittee reviewed and made changes to the 9th Elementary School presentation later this evening (Attachment A). Ms. Brewton will review the timeline and the factors that may extend it to fall 2021; present other consideration that could further extend the timeline; and review the CivicMoxie criteria for Site Selection. Mr. Pollak will present the Pros, Cons and Unknowns for each site under consideration.

The Subcommittee agreed to add “Possibility for a single use site” under the Village School slide. We will need to get community input. Ms. Brewton reported on her conversation with Stop & Shop, the tenant. We need a legal analysis from Town Counsel on Article 97 implications for the sites under consideration. Redistricting is an unknown for each site.

The Subcommittee discussed the sites under consideration.

Comments:

Mr. Pollak: There seems to be strong interest in the Stop & Shop site. He finds the Baker campus site compelling, although the potential intensity of use at that locale is a concern. Baldwin is already a school site, but may not be ideal in terms of redistricting. There has been recent community interest in the Putterham (both for and against) and Pine Manor sites. If we are serious about looking at Stop & Shop and Baker, we will need to spend money to understand their viability. We should understand what is possible at Baldwin. He would like to spend money on all three.

Ms. Stone: There seems to be agreement on doing more study of the Stop & Shop and Baker sites. Putterham, Baldwin/Soule and Pine Manor have similar challenges. We should get more information (clarify restrictions, owner willingness to sell) before going deeper. The Baldwin site has tremendous potential for use by the schools, but it isn't clear that a 9th elementary school would be the best use.

Ms. Scotto: Baldwin would not really serve South or North Brookline. The cost of busing would need to be factored into the budget.

Ms. Charlupski: Need to get more information on the Article 97 restrictions. Want to understand more fully what is possible at Baldwin.

The Subcommittee discussed how to proceed with regard to possible Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) participation in the 9th Elementary School and/or High School projects and reviewed the draft comparison matrix (Attachment B). It is not clear if the MSBA would agree to take on additional Public Schools of Brookline projects until after the Devotion project is completed. MSBA participation can add time and certain requirements to a project. Only certain architects can be used. We need community input.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.